

VOTES

OF THE

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House of Ladies:

OR, THE

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PARLIAMENT

OF

WOMEN.

SHEWING

All their Notable PROCEEDINGS,

TOWARDS

The Speedy *Reformation* of ILL HUSBANDS,

The Propagation of CUCKOLDOM,

The Regulation of GALANTS,

AND

The Redress of all other FEMALE Grievances.

L O N D O N, Printed in the Year 1708.

THE HOUSE of LADIES, &c.

THE House coming together upon the First of April, being the day appointed for their meeting; after they had sworn their Members upon the School of *Venus*, to be true to the Interest of the Smock and Petticoat, and had chosen my Lady *Pintleborough*, with little opposition, into the Speaker's Chair, the House proceeded to settle their several Committees upon the same day, that they might punish morose Husbands, reward their Galants for their good Services, and redress their Grievances with the greater Expedition. And then

The House adjourned 'till the day following; and being met accordingly, the first Business was to send a Messenger to the unlawful Assembly at *Kare's*.

Next falling upon their Votes in particular, declar'd that Part of their Order to be an absolute Breach of Privilege, which forbids the High-flyers Entrance into the *North-East* Quarters; and accordingly ordered, That the said High-flyers shall within two days depart this City, and not to come within 20 Miles of the Line of Communication. And further voted,

That no malignant Lady presume to walk in *Spring-Garden* after 12 a clock at night, upon any Pretence whatsoever.

Next their Ladiships took into Consideration the great Number of Delinquents; and ordered, That there be a Committee for Composition, to meet at the Lady *K*——'s for the *Protestants*, and for the *Papists* at the Lady *L*——'s.

This day a Complaint was made and brought in against Sir *H*——y *B*——t, for publishing an Heretical Doctrine, viz. *That it is better to converse with, and resort to Common Women, than Ladies of Honour.* Upon mature



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mature Deliberation whereof, the Ladies with much Indignation sent for him; who being come, and hearing his Accusation read, was commanded to withdraw. During the Debate, up starts the Lady F—r, and offers to the Consideration of the House the dangerous Effects that this Opinion might produce, if it be suffer'd to be sown amongst the People, to the utter Decay of Trade, as also of the particular Commerce of Rhenish Wine in the Musk, Tarts, Cheesecakes, Syllabubs, &c. whereby the Profits of this House will be greatly diminished. This Speech was received with a marvelous Applause by the whole House, and the said Sir H—y B—t called in the second time; who being commanded to kneel, refused accordingly, alledging, That that House was no lawful Judicature, but appealed to all the Commons in England and Wales; Which suspended all Proceedings therein for that time.

They consider'd, in the next place, that divers weak Persons have crept into Places beyond their Abilities; and, to the end that Men of greater Parts may be put into their rooms, appointed the Lady M—x, the Lady F—r, the Lady A—e W—r, and Mrs. D—, (by reason of their great Experience in the Soldiery of this Kingdom) to be a Committee of Triers for this Business.

Ordered likewise, That the Lady L— (who was an old Soldier, and had stood many a Brunt of Push-a-Fike) be an Assistant to the Committee of Triers: But her Ladiship alledging Age, and other Corporal Infirmities, (by reason of her constant Endeavours and Employment to the State in this Particular) desir'd to be excused, and that her Daughter the Lady C— might be honoured with the Employment; for whose Zeal and indefatigable Activity in the Service she would engage her Honour, having trained her up from her Infancy in her own Principles; Which some of the House opposed, in regard the young Lady was somewhat Cavalcerish; but upon further Debate it appeared that she had done good Service for several Members of

both Houses, and so the major part carried it for her; and voted, That the good old Lord should have his Writ of Ease, and his Nephew *H*—— be continued a standing Member in his place.

The House being ready to adjourn, there came News of a Quarrel between two notorious Members of the said House, Mrs. *H*——s and Mrs. *D*——e, against the *Common Enemy*, viz. their *Husbands*; and it was ordered, That they should be reconciled, and *T*——m *T*——le to put up his Blade.

The Morning following, they took into *Consideration* the several *Garisons* of this Kingdom; what were to be kept, and what not; and ordered, That *Northampton* be a Garison, and that the Lady *S*—— be requested to take the Command thereof, notwithstanding the self-denying Ordinance.

That an *English* Garison be put into *Carlisle*, to prevent Foreign Nations getting Possession thereof; as is to be feared, by reason of some secret Intelligence had by the *French* in that Place.

That *Leicester*, *Newport*, *Marlborough*, and all other that are either old Fortifications, or useless, be slighted. After this they took into Consideration the Standing Forces of this Kingdom, and their several Entertainments; and ordered,

That the Lord *F*——s, Mr. *H*——y, Mr. *R*——d, and Mr. *T*——n, have Pay allowed them, conditionally, that they shall be provided to draw forth upon Service at the least Warning.

That Collonel *C*——e, and *Sl*——y *H*——d, *B*——s, and Mr. *N*——l, have free Quarter only.

That the Prince Elector, and Mr. *G*——k, together with Prince *G*——b (henceforth) pay their Quarters.

Ordered, by Addition to the first Vote, That Sir *J*——n *M*——y be forthwith paid for his Service to this House, notwithstanding his Delinquency; but so, that if he shall break out any more, he shall be irrecoverably put into Exception.

Ordered,

Ordered, That all such Forces as shall be disbanded, be sent for *Ireland*, or otherwise disposed of out of this Kingdom.

Their Ladiships were then informed, That there was a Messlage at the Door from the *House of Commons*; and Sir P— W—, and Mr. B—, (who brought the same) being let in, they found it was for the Relief of all Maimed Soldiers. Their Ladiships referr'd it to the Lady P—, to consider what Relief was fit to be given them; to whom they joined Mrs. H—, sometime a Maid of Honour, she having but lately purged her self of her Malignancy.

After this was taken into Consideration the great Abuse offered to several Noble Ladies, and other Common-Members, by base Mechanicks, crept into good Cloaths and Commands since the first beginning of these Times; amongst whom two were in particular nominated, viz. Collonel F—x, a Tinker, for plundering a Lady near *Bruningham* in *Worcestershire*; and Collonel A—l, a Taylor's Son in *Moor-fields*, for beating up the Quarters of a Gentlewoman near *Bansted* in *Surry*: Which, after some Debate, the House referred to the Committee of *Triers*, with Order to make their Report the *Thursday* following.

The House likewise this day received divers Reports from the Committee of *Complaints*; and first against the Prince Elector, who was accused, That he was not secret in his Trust to the House, but betrayed them in their Service; and instead of doing their Business, did his own. The Consideration of this Business was put off 'till another time, as also another Accusation against the said Prince; both brought in by Mrs. B—-n.

The House in the next place taking into Consideration the great Decay of Cattle, and other Beasts in the Kingdom, during these unnatural Wars, thought the fittest Means for a Remedy to be their Ladiships sending (as they did) to the *House of Commons*, to entreat them, that some of their Members might join with their Ladiships, to consider of the said Business.

They forthwith named the Lady G—, and the House of Commons the Lord G—, her Husband, to be a Committee to debate and consider the fittest Means to encrease and multiply the said Beasts; for whom they gave these ensuing Instructions.

That they shall entreat all or most part of the M—ys in *England*, and all other Men of that Shape, to marry.

That Monsieur S— be entreated, and that the Name of the House be therein used, to return, for some further time, to his Concubine here, notwithstanding his Wife be alive at *Geneva*; for that *Geneva* hath not the like urgent Necessity of multiplying Beasts, as this Island hath.

The House then took into Consideration the Sale of Delinquents Estates, and ordered, That Mr. H—n, for his faithful Services, have the Earl of N—'s Baggage: As also, That the Lady D— have *Worcester House*, notwithstanding the Vote of the Houses of Parliament at *Westminster* in favour of the E— of S—y, that so her Ladiship may be present with less Trouble at her many and serious Negotiations with the *Scots Commissioners*.

They likewise took into Consideration certain maimed and wounded Members, who had been hot and forward in the Cause, and ordered, That they should be sent to Mrs. D—'s House, at *Hog-lane* end, for their Cure; and that Collonel A—l, her Grand-child, should be their Surgeon.

This day a Petition came from the Lady S—, humbly desiring she might be received into their House, pretending she was well affected: But it was alledged, That a *French Affection* mix'd with a *Scotch*, could never make a well-affected Lady. It was further alledged, That the said Lady had been in Arms under Colonel S—y; but some Friends of hers said it was under Mr. S—y, who was ordered to be kept in by this House. The Debate put off till another time.

Another Petition was this day presented to the House
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by Four City-Dames, who much complained of the Decay of Trading among them, occasioned by the Death of many galant and expert Men in *Spain*, who they say were their best Customers; and therefore humbly prayed this Honourable House, That the surviving, stiled *Cavaliers*, might be encouraged, kindly entreated, and not *banished*, as lately they had been, to the Petitioners great Hindrance; for, without them, they cannot have their Work well done: Whereof all the Members were so sensible, that, without further Debate, they ordered the same accordingly; and desired the *Speaker* to give the Petitioners hearty Thanks, for putting the House in mind of so good and necessary a Commonwealth's Business.

A Motion was then made for putting down of *Plays*: Whereupon the Lady M——h stood up, and desired it might be explained what *Plays* were meant; forasmuch as if they should put down the Game of *In-and-In*, it might prove much to the Prejudice of the House, as also of Mr. T——g, who had deserved well of her *Ladiship*. But Answer being made, *Stage-plays were only understood*, she declar'd, *She would concur with the House in that*, now Sir J——n S——n was dead, but truly *she liked his Play well*.

It was moved by the Lady C——n, That a Thanksgiving-Day might be appointed, for the Recovery of the Rt. Hon. the E—— of P——e; which was consented to, and Mr. C——t desired to preach, and sing the *Psalm* in *English*, and not in *Hebrew*.

Ordered, That Thanks be given to Mr. R——n, for his zealous and devout Prayers that the said E—— might once more climb up *May-hill*.

The House then appointed Commissioners to go to His Majesty, viz. the Ladies O—— and S——, together with the Lady M——y, to move His Majesty's Heart, and give the Royal Assent, that so a happy Union might follow.

This day a Complaint was made by C.....x against the Lady C.....m, informing the Honourable House, That the

the said Lady, contrary to the Laws of Heraldry, had quartered three Infants *Couchant* in her Husband's Coat, without the Lord C.....'s consent, or the Herald's direction; and therefore the said C.....x humbly desired, That the said Lady might be questioned, for making Arms which she cannot lawfully justify. Whereupon the House conceiving this a Matter of great Concernment, voted, for determination of the Business, That the whole House should be turned into a grand Committee; which was done accordingly: And after a long debate, it was generally voted, That to punish the said Lady for this Offence, might prove a Matter of dangerous Consequence to divers Members of this House; and therefore it was finally ordered, That the Lady C..... should not have the Law inflicted upon her for this Fault; being conceived by the House to be an Original Sin in her, drawn from the Loins of her Lady Mother and Grandmother, and therefore more pardonable: But it was thought fit that the Business should be referred to the Lord her Husband, since the Adulterating of his Arms concerns him most; and that (till his Lordship resolves what to do therein) she be committed to the safe Custody of his Nephew H....., who is ordered to have standing Wages from the said Lady during Pleasure.

Then, according to Order, the Committee of *Triers* made Report to the House concerning Col. F.....x and Col. A.....l; who appeared unto them (as in their Accusation was alledged) to be base Mechanicks before these Times. But for F--x's plundering of the Lady they could not find, tho' it appeared he had been meddling with her Commodities: Neither did A---l break up the Gentlewoman's Quarters, as was pretended, but had only been in her Quarters when she gave his Nag a Heat at *Bansted-Downs*. So that they humbly conceived them not guilty of what they were accused for, neither any way deserving the Censure of that House; so that the Serjeant at Arms, attending that House, was ordered to discharge them out of his Custody, without Fees; which was done accordingly.

And then the House adjourn'd themselves for 3 Months, that their Ladiships might have Leisure, before the Summer was over, to settle their own Affairs at *Tunbridge*; *Epsom*, the *Bath*, &c. and refresh the fading Horns of their Cornuted Husbands against next Winter. And so the House broke up accordingly.

FINIS.



